

ABSOLUTE BATMAN



ALL IN

13+
TEEN

7



ND
D.

SNYDER
MARTÍN
VICENTE

THE MAN OF STEEL'S GREATEST YEAR BEGINS HERE!



ALL IN

SUMMER OF SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1

A 48-PAGE
ONE-SHOT
ON SALE IN
APRIL



MARK WAID, DAN SLOTT, JOSHUA WILLIAMSON, AND JORGE JIMÉNEZ
JOIN FORCES FOR A MUST-READ STORY DEFINING SUPERMAN'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE!

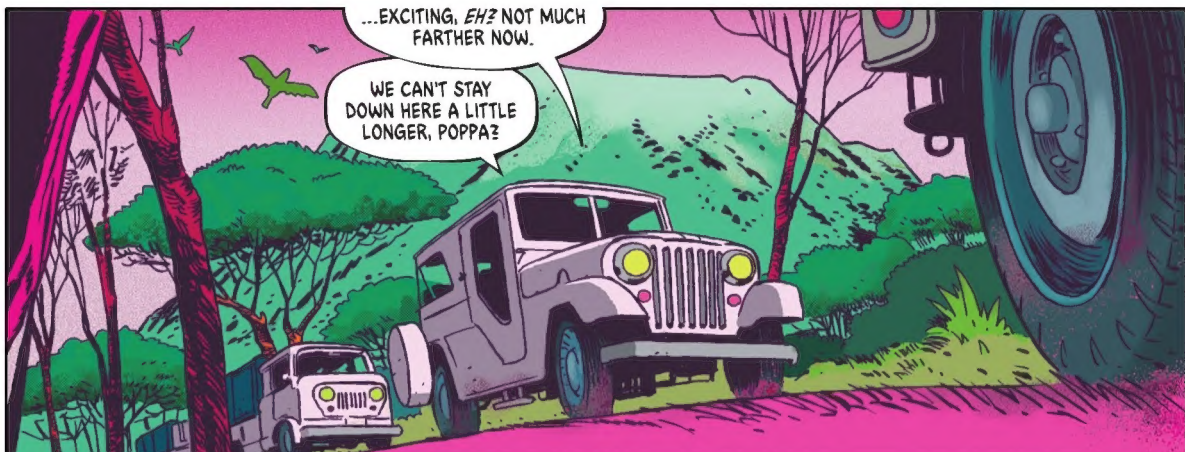


PROLOGUE:
TANZANIA!
THEN

"TO THE **LAND
OF ICE** WE GO..."

...EXCITING, EH? NOT MUCH
FARTHER NOW.

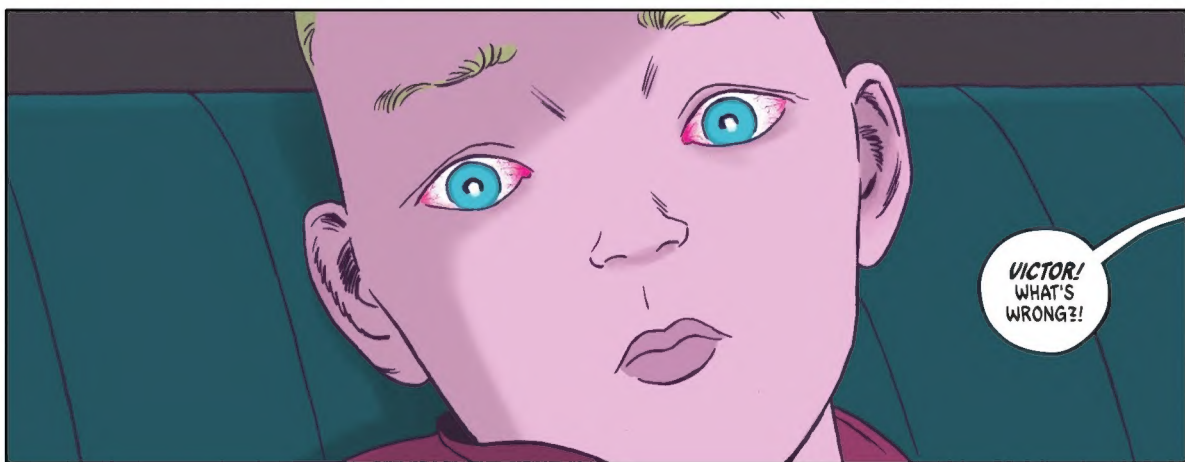
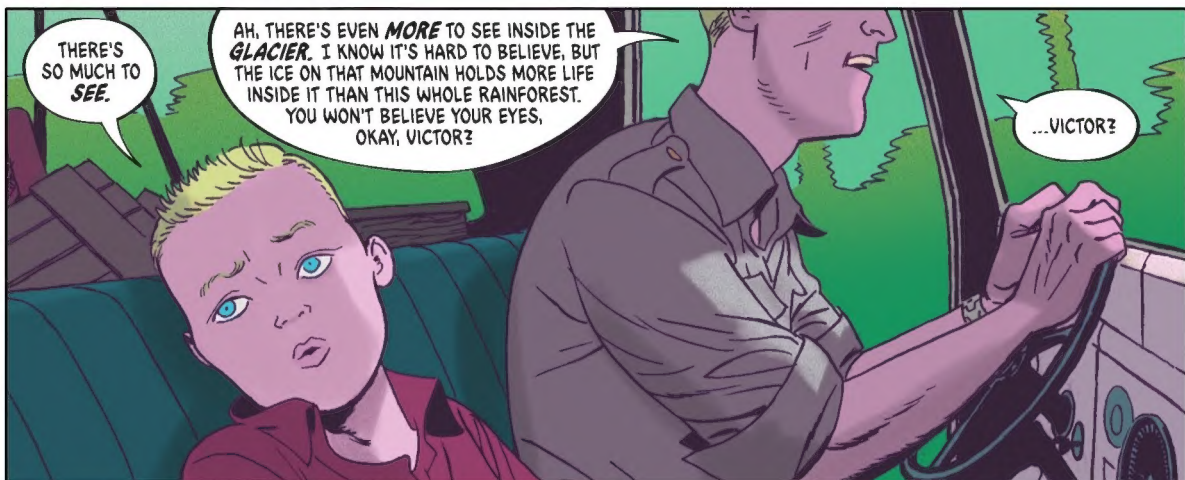
WE CAN'T STAY
DOWN HERE A LITTLE
LONGER, POPPA?



THERE'S
SO MUCH TO
SEE.

AH, THERE'S EVEN **MORE** TO SEE INSIDE THE
GLACIER. I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT
THE ICE ON THAT MOUNTAIN HOLDS MORE LIFE
INSIDE IT THAN THIS WHOLE RAINFOREST.
YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES,
OKAY, VICTOR?

...VICTOR?



VICTOR!
WHAT'S
WRONG?!

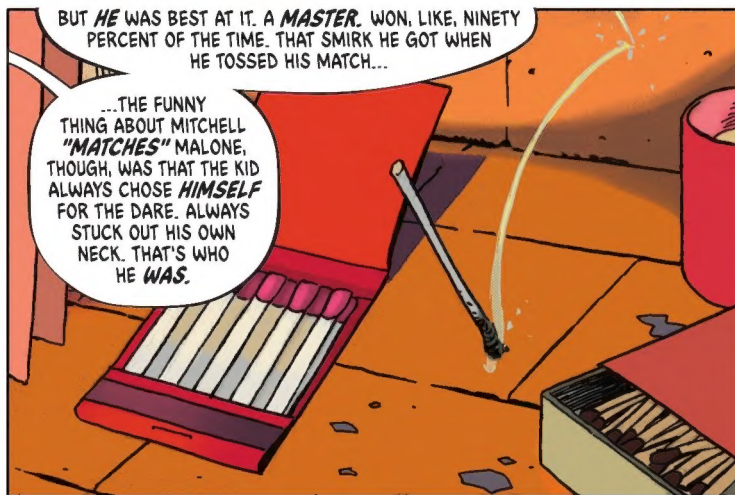
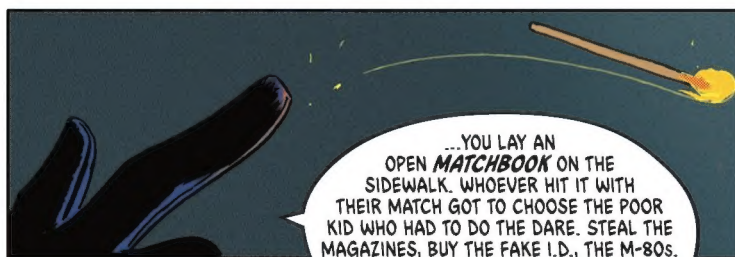
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WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER
ARTIST: MARCOS MARTÍN
COLORIST: MUNTA VICENTE
LETTERER: CLAYTON COWLES

COVER: NICK DRAGOTTA & FRANK MARTIN
VARIANT COVERS: MICO SUAYAN & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.; BILL SIENKIEWICZ
1:25 VARIANT COVER: AMY REEDER • 1:50 VARIANT COVER: CHARLIE ADLARD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SABRINA FUTCH • EDITOR: KATIE KUBERT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: CHRIS CONROY • SPECIAL THANKS TO DENIZ CAMP
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

GOTHAM CITY.
PRESENT DAY.





ONE WEEK AGO.



Batman Combat Journal.
April 19.

The city feels strange...

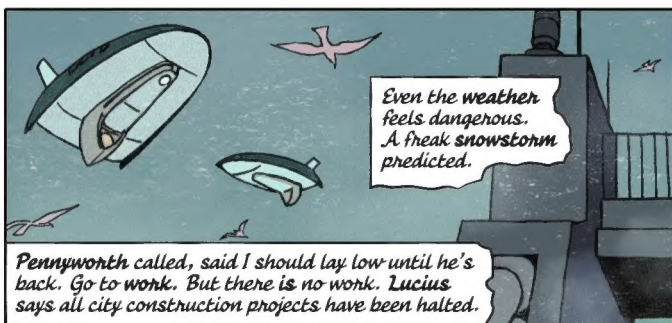
...the streets look less familiar every day.

For the past month, ever since the **Black Mask** incident, the city has been under martial law to "ensure people's safety from threats like the **Batman**."

Mayor Hill has issued a 10 p.m. curfew. There are police on every corner. Outfitted with fancy new gear.



Even the weather feels dangerous. A freak snowstorm predicted.



Pennyworth called, said I should lay low until he's back. Go to work. But there is no work. Lucius says all city construction projects have been halted.

Something is happening. I can feel it. Like this is all part of some bigger campaign. Something too big to see from the ground.

Whatever it is, though, I can't shake the feeling it all comes back to that place.

Ark M. The massive black site they're building right off the coast of Gotham.



The crew building it is private. Some company called JK.

I have to get on that crew. I will.

Which is why I'm headed to the Elliott Bridge at five in the morning...





...meeting
Matches
Malone.

BRUCE?
IS THAT
REALLY
YOU?

Last the guys heard, he was
into running L.D. scams.
High-end. Barcodes.
Laser engraved. My hope
was that he could get me
work papers to get on
the Ark M crew.



When I asked him two
weeks ago, he said he'd
get right on it. Then
nothing until this
morning, when he
said it was urgent.

MATCHES.
HOW'RE--



WALK
WITH ME,
BUDDY.



He's nervous. Spooked about being followed.
With the cops everywhere, I couldn't risk
bringing gear. If there's a fight, all I have
is the cast.

Pennyworth insisted on it
being medical and medical
only. But then he left town
and I did my own...
engineering.

YOU
OKAY?

MATCHES?

WHAT? OF
COURSE. YEAH!
I'M GREAT,
GREAT.

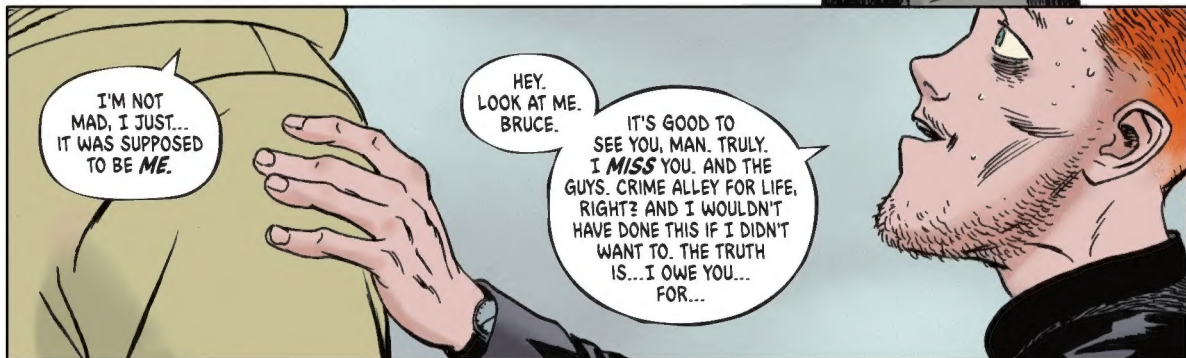
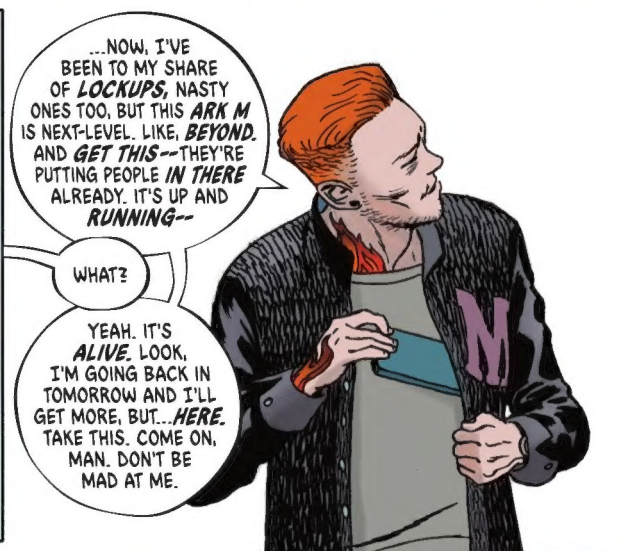
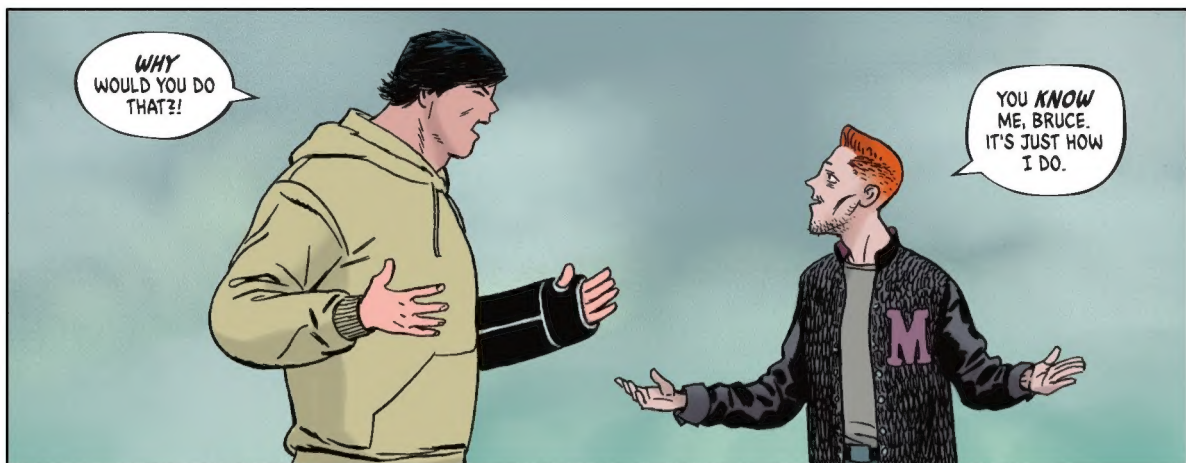
AND YES, I
GOT THE **WORK
PAPERS. BUT...**
I DID YOU ONE
BETTER.



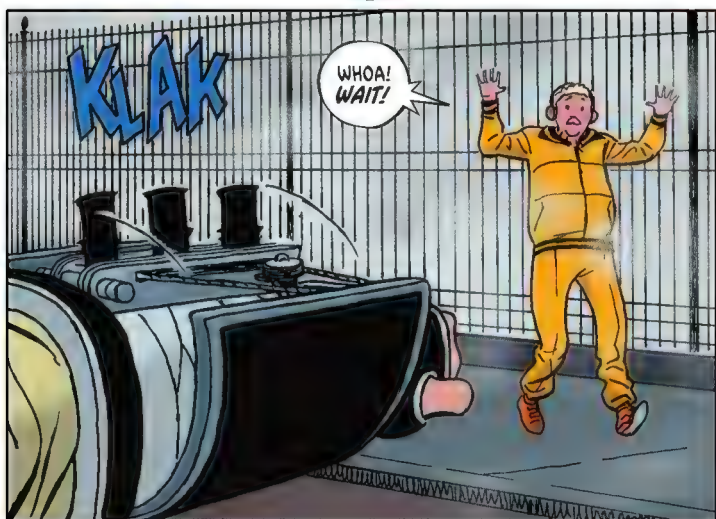
YOU
DIDN'T.



AH, BUT
I **DID**. I'VE
SPENT THE LAST
WEEK ON THEIR
CREW. **INSIDE**
THAT PLACE.









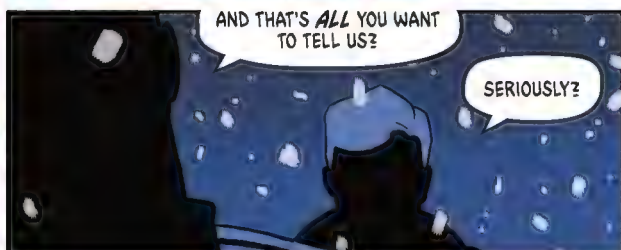
@#\$\$%
HELL.

THE
POLICE REPORT
SAID--

IT'S
WRONG.



WHOEVER KILLED
HIM USED SOME KIND OF...
BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.
THERE ARE SOME LEADS IN
HIS **PHONE**. CLUES. I'LL
GET THE PERSON WHO DID
THIS. I PROMISE. I
JUST...WANTED TO
TELL YOU THAT.



AND THAT'S **ALL** YOU WANT
TO TELL US?

SERIOUSLY?



BRUCE, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE **DEAD**, BUDDY.
THE LAST THING ANY OF US HEARD--

YOU WERE
DIVING OUT OF
MY PLANE DRESSED
LIKE @#\$\$% NOSFERATU.



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO WORRY
YOU...I HAVE
TO GO.



NO. NO WAY. YOU'RE
NOT GOING **ANYWHERE**.
WE ARE **TALKING**
ABOUT THIS, HERE
AND NOW.

WE ARE
TALKING ABOUT
BATMAN.

Batman combat journal.
April 29.

Matches' phone didn't have much from Ark M., but what it had was bad.

A four-second video shows hundreds of windowless titanium cells. And in the background, I could hear crying, begging... and screams.

At the end of the video was a list. Whether Matches wrote it or found it, I don't know. But it's filled with names.

Langstrom. Isley. Strange. Fries... names of researchers, doctors around the world.

The only one with any connection to Gotham is Dr. Victor Fries. A pioneer of cryo-tech, he started a company called V-Cone.

Which has an office right here in midtown. For some reason, it pulls enough power from the grid to light ten city blocks. I need to get in there...

...but after curfew, the streets are all heavily patrolled. So with the snowstorm raging, the air seemed safest. Police blimps flying blind.

All predictions said the storm showed no signs of stopping.

But then, as suddenly as it began... it stops. And I'm exposed.

IS THAT...? IT IS!

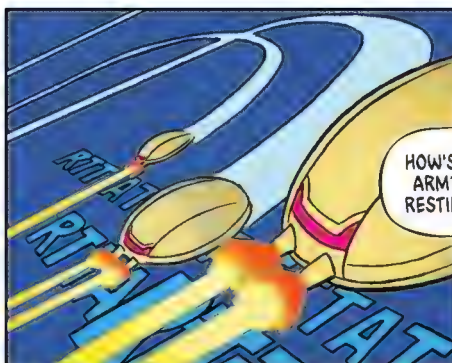
LAUNCH THE DRONES!

I go full free-fall...

...and that's when Pennyworth patches through from London.

BRUCE? ARE YOU THERE? I HAVE INFORMATION.

I'M LISTENING.



HOW'S YOUR ARM? YOU RESTING IT?



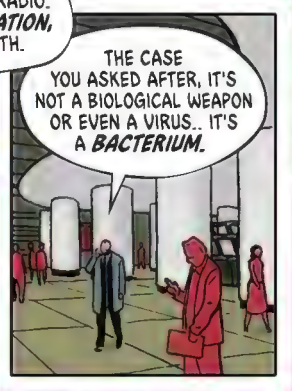
YEAH. WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT?

WHAT'S ALL THAT BLOODY NOISE IN THE--



THE BLOODY RADIO. THE INFORMATION, PENNYWORTH.

THE CASE YOU ASKED AFTER, IT'S NOT A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON OR EVEN A VIRUS.. IT'S A BACTERIUM.



BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF IT. NOT HERE, NOT AT THE W.H.O.



THEN WHERE DID IT COME FROM?





...THERE'S **NOTHING** LEFT TO SAY ABOUT IT. I SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOU **APART** FROM THIS. **ALL** OF YOU.



LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING. WAS IT FOR BATMAN, WHEN YOU **CLERKED** WITH ME?

AND **TRAINED** WITH ME.

AND **SLUMMED** IT WITH ME.

AND **STUDIED** WITH ME?

FUNNY, BRUCE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU DID KEEP US ALL "**A PART**" WHEN IT COMES TO BATMAN.

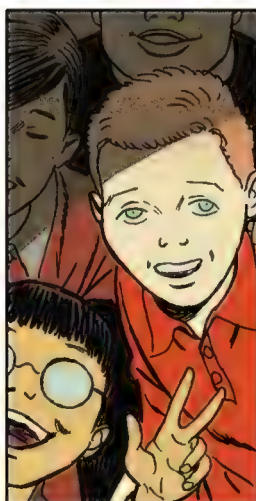


ENOUGH. LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED TO MATCHES. I **WON'T**--



WE **ALL** KNOW WHY MATCHES WAS THE WAY HE WAS.

WAY...



WAYLON'S RIGHT, OZZIE. IT'S TIME TO **DEAL** WITH THIS. LAY ALL THE **CARDS** ON THE TABLE.



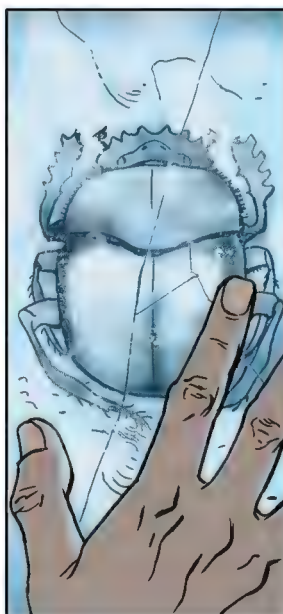
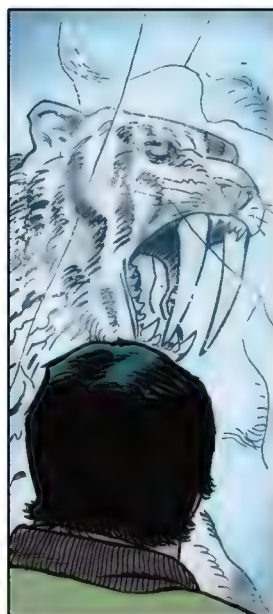
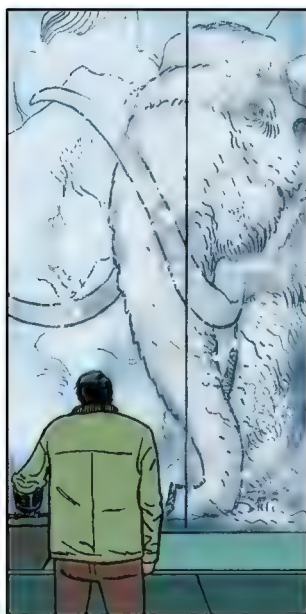
NO. IT'S **TIME** FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF MY WAY SO I CAN GET BACK TO WORK.



The top of the building is wired for surveillance. Hard line, remote. So I leave Batman in the pipes, enter as a nobody. City engineer coming to do a check.

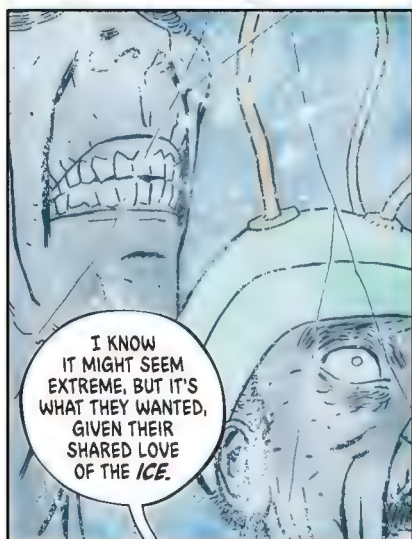
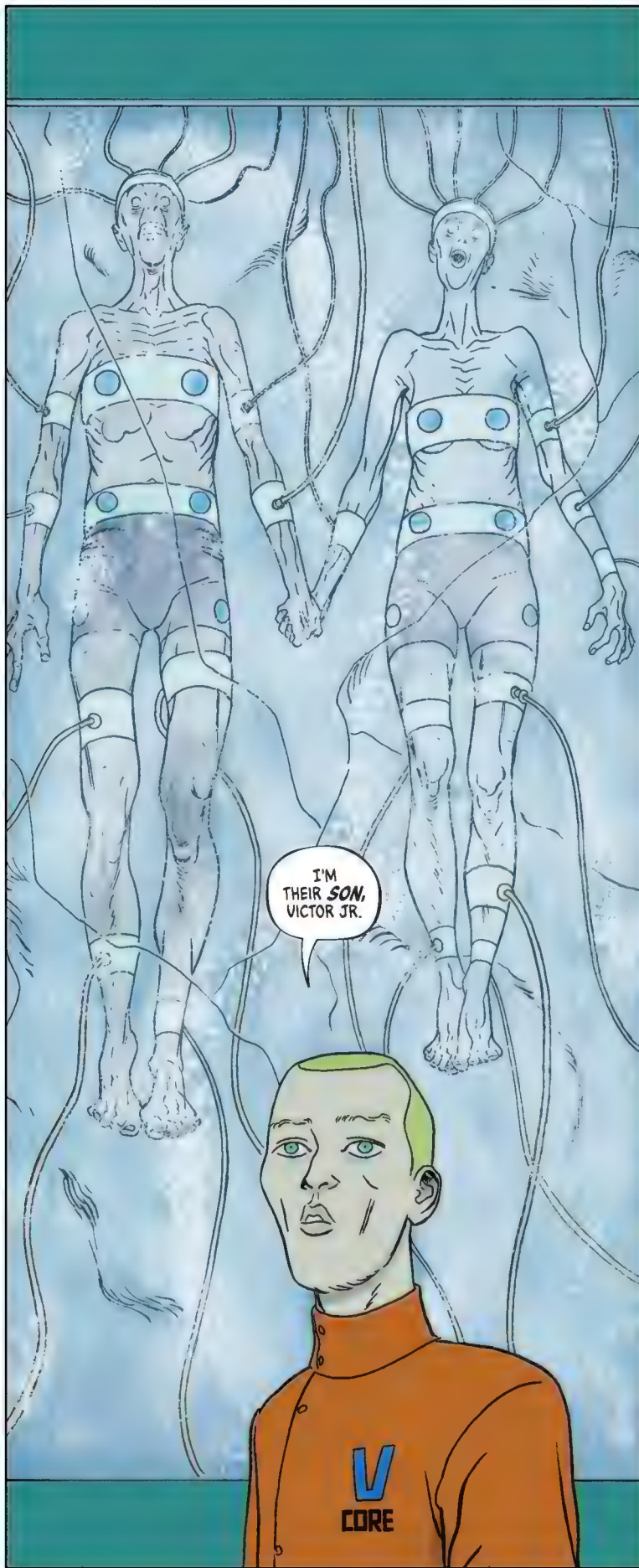


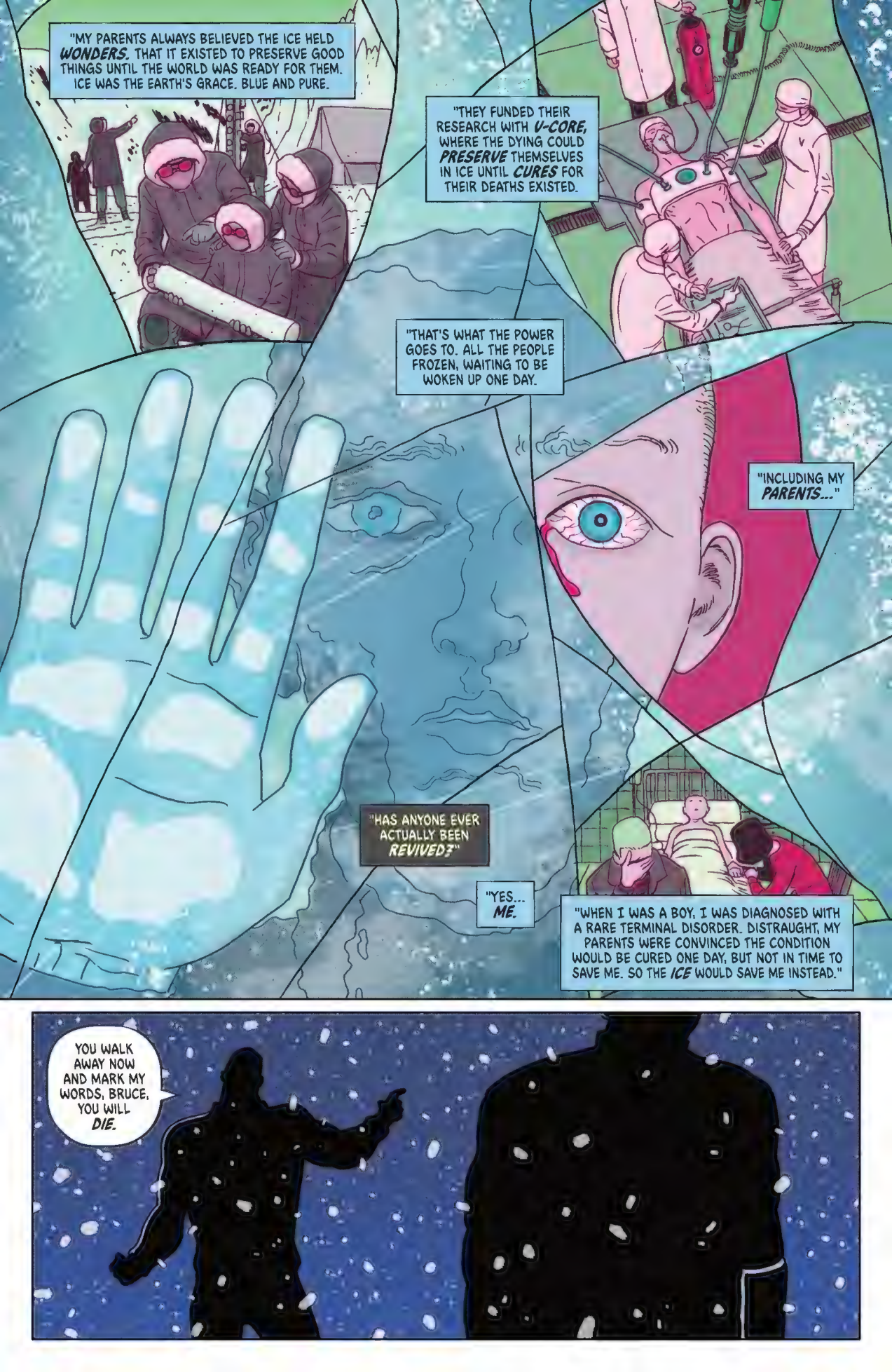
After all, what's happening up here that requires so much power?



THEY'RE ALL **REAL**, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING.







"MY PARENTS ALWAYS BELIEVED THE ICE HELD *WONDERS*. THAT IT EXISTED TO PRESERVE GOOD THINGS UNTIL THE WORLD WAS READY FOR THEM. ICE WAS THE EARTH'S GRACE. BLUE AND PURE.

"THEY FUNDED THEIR RESEARCH WITH *U-CORE*, WHERE THE DYING COULD *PRESERVE* THEMSELVES IN ICE UNTIL *CURES* FOR THEIR DEATHS EXISTED.

"THAT'S WHAT THE POWER GOES TO. ALL THE PEOPLE FROZEN, WAITING TO BE WOKEN UP ONE DAY.

"INCLUDING MY PARENTS..."

"HAS ANYONE EVER ACTUALLY BEEN *REVIVED*?"

"YES... ME.

"WHEN I WAS A BOY, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE TERMINAL DISORDER. DISTRAUGHT, MY PARENTS WERE CONVINCED THE CONDITION WOULD BE CURED ONE DAY, BUT NOT IN TIME TO SAVE ME. SO THE *ICE* WOULD SAVE ME INSTEAD."

YOU WALK AWAY NOW AND MARK MY WORDS, BRUCE, YOU WILL *DIE*.



Focus, Bruce. You got him talking-- now, while he's distracted, look. Look for anything that could help.

GUESS IT DID SAVE YOU.

YES. STILL, THEY TOLD ME IT WOULDN'T HURT. WHEN I WOKE UP, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE.



BUT THE ICE...OHhh, IT'S NOT WHAT THEY THOUGHT.



Any link to what happened to...Matches?



HH.



NOT AT ALL...



"...ancient micro-organisms preserved..."

Maybe the question isn't where the bacterium that killed Matches came from. But when.



I FELT **EVERYTHING**. EVERY **MOMENT**. AND THE **PAIN**...MY GOD. ICE GRINDS AND TWISTS...THE **ICE** ISN'T GRACE. IT IS **FURY**. IT'S **RECKONING**.



HELL, BRUCE. LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE ALREADY **DEAD**.



He did this...

THE ICE BIRDS **MONSTERS**, MR. "PENNYWORTH"...



TO BE CONTINUED...

DEATHSTROKE'S BACK...FROM THE DEAD!

TITANS #22

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WRITTEN BY
**JOHN
LAYMAN**

ART BY
**DANIEL
BAYLISS**

COVER BY PETE WOODS



ALL IN

THE TITANS'
MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY
RETURNS IN
APRIL

SUMMER OF SUPERMAN

SPECIAL #1

A CONVERSATION WITH MARK WAID AND DAN SLOTT

It's a great time to be a Superman fan. The long-awaited *Superman* feature film written and directed by James Gunn is out July 11 from Warner Bros. Pictures, and DC gets the celebration going on the publishing side with April's *Summer of Superman Special*—co-written by Joshua Williamson, Mark Waid, and Dan Slott and drawn by Jorge Jiménez.

Following the *Summer of Superman Special* one-shot, Joshua Williamson and Dan Mora take their era-defining run on *Superman* to unexpected territory, while Slott teams with Rafael Albuquerque for the new series *Superman Unlimited*, chronicling the Man of Steel's high-stakes present-day adventures, and Waid joins *Action Comics* alongside artist Skylar Patridge to explore Clark Kent's days as Superboy in Smallville in a whole new light. Here's more from Waid and Slott on what they have planned.

Mark Waid: The *Summer of Superman Special* is a look at Superman past, present, and future. I start the book with Clark as a 15-year-old boy, learning to be a superhero for the first time. What is that like, learning to use your powers at that age? What kind of challenges are you facing? We're bringing Smallville a little more up to date—it still has that rustic feel to it, but farms don't look like that anymore.

Dan Slott: Your section also has one of the greatest stars of the summer.

Waid: Krypto! I have been a Krypto booster my entire life, and to see the rest of the world finally understand what I love about Krypto—I'm so thrilled.



Slott: My section has Superman dealing with the present. It's the wedding of Lana Lang and John Henry Irons.

Through all three parts, including Josh's, there's some time shenanigans going on, and there's some fisticuffs. There's action. It's so much fun.

Waid: Dan, what is it you enjoy most about writing Superman?

Slott: The thing I like most about Superman, more than any other superhero, is there's the fantasy element that he can fly, he has so many powers—but the greater fantasy element is that he can do all these things, yet he's here for us. You feel good writing about Superman.

There's a sequence in *Superman Unlimited* #1 where it's not about someone believing in Superman—you find out how powerful it is that Superman believes in you.

Waid: I have always said that the gods get their powers because they encourage us to believe in them. Superman gets his powers by believing in us.



DON'T MISS
SUMMER OF SUPERMAN
SPECIAL
ON SALE IN APRIL!

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